

Appl. No. : 10/506,361
Filed : May 16, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 stand rejected. By this paper, independent Claim 1 has been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, particularly in Claim 2 as originally filed and in Figure 2 as originally filed. Claim 2 has been canceled. Thus, Claims 1 and 3-9 are presented for consideration and further examination in view of the following amendments and remarks.

Interview Summary

Applicant would like to thank Examiner Ripley for taking the time to discuss the outstanding Office Action in a telephonic interview with counsel for Applicant on May 3, 2007. During the interview, U.S. Patent No. 2,070,013 to Krannak et al. was generally discussed. Examiner Ripley and counsel for Applicant proposed adding language directed to the sliding sleeve to Claim 1 in view of the prior art. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the rejected Claim 1 to recite the sliding sleeve structure.

Objections to the Drawings

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(u) for having more than one figure with a common reference number. Applicant has provided replacement sheets for the drawings with the upper and lower views of Figure 2 re-labeled as Figures 2 and 3, respectively. Applicant has also amended the specification to reflect this change. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the drawings.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that the recitation of “and/or” in the phrase “gaseous and/or liquid fluids” in Independent Claim 1 renders that claim indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to delete “gaseous and/or liquid” and recite simply “fluids,” thus clarifying the claim. Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

Rejection of Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) under Krannak

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The Examiner rejected Claims 1-3, 5-6, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,070,013 (Krannak). The Examiner rejected dependent Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krannak in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,240,520 (Dailey et al.) The Examiner also rejected dependent Claims 7 and 8 under Krannak in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,383 (Reiter) and U.S. Patent No. 5,647,910 (Reiter), respectively. With respect to the anticipation rejection of independent Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *See* M.P.E.P. § 2131.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a “connection coupling... comprising: a sliding sleeve for locking collet chucks via a connection nipple; a guide sleeve with longitudinal grooves in which the collet chucks are guided; and a spacer sleeve, at least a portion of the spacer sleeve being disposed between the sliding sleeve and collet chucks such that the collet chucks do not directly contact the sliding sleeve.” As agreed to by the Examiner during the telephone interview with Applicant’s representative on May 3, 2007, Krannak fails to disclose at least the spacer sleeve structure recited in Claim 1. The applied prior art of record does not cure this deficiency in the Krannak reference. Accordingly, because Krannak does not disclose each and every element of amended Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of independent Claim 1 has been overcome.

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claims 3-9 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and, thus, are patentable for at least the same reasons that the claim from which they depend is patentable over the applied art. Therefore, allowance of Claims 1 and 3-9 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any other claim, even if similar terminology is used. Any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim

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should not be understood to base patentability on solely that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicant has not presented arguments concerning whether the applied references can be properly combined in view of the clearly missing elements noted above, and Applicant reserves the right to later contest whether a proper motivation and suggestion exists to combine these references.

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertions regarding what the prior art discloses or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although changes to the claims have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby; such amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application and are without prejudice to the presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims relating to the same or similar subject matter.

The undersigned has made a good faith effort to respond to all of the noted rejections and to place the claims in condition for immediate allowance. Nevertheless, if any undeveloped issues remain or if an issue requires clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's attorney in order to resolve any such issue promptly.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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